

Should the daycare close?

Each daycare set-up is unique, which makes it difficult to provide a “one size fits all” answer. Please refer to the daycare assessment tool, your DSS licensing specialist, or the South Dakota Department of Health for more information. Only the individuals who are named as a close contact need to be quarantined.

How do we determine who is a close contact to a positive individual?

A close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more per day starting the 2 days (48 hours) prior to the positive individual's symptom onset. Depending on how the daycare runs, the entire daycare may be identified as close contacts or just a small group.

How long should close contacts stay at home after an exposure?

SD-DOH and CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine from the day of last exposure to a person with COVID-19. However, if a quarantined individual remains asymptomatic, they may be released from quarantine after either 7 or 10 days, according to the following criteria:

- Release from quarantine after 7 days if the close contact:
 - ✓ Has remained asymptomatic (has no symptoms) AND
 - ✓ Has a negative test that was collected on Day 5 or later, after their last contact with a person with COVID-19 (i.e., Day 5 of their quarantine or later)
- Release from quarantine after 10 days if the close contact:
 - ✓ Has remained asymptomatic (has no symptoms)

All close contacts should continue to monitor their symptoms for the remainder of the 14-day period and will stay at home and seek medical evaluation if they become sick.

Can a staff member continue to work after an exposure?

Follow your facility policy. The Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker Guidance states that daycare employees named as close contacts may continue to work during quarantine, if they remain asymptomatic, monitor for signs and symptoms, and wear a mask during the quarantine period. For more information, please see: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>.

If a staff member has been positive in the past, can they continue to work after an exposure?

The Centers for Disease Control states that re-infection with SARS CoV-2 (the virus which causes COVID-19) is uncommon during the first 90 days following symptom onset of a previous infection. Therefore, if the staff member has had a documented positive COVID-19 test result in the past 90 days, they are considered low risk for developing COVID-19 and are unlikely to become infectious. They do not need to complete another quarantine period. The staff member must have been released from their isolation period prior to returning to daycare.

If a child was positive in the past, can they attend daycare after an exposure?

If a child has had a documented positive test result for SARS CoV-2 in the last 90 days, they do not need to complete another quarantine period. The child must have been released from their isolation period prior to returning to daycare.

If a child has had a close contact outside of daycare (such as school or at home), can they still attend daycare?

No, children should remain at home during their quarantine period and should follow guidelines for close contacts.

If a staff member or a child has had close contact to a person who was named as a close contact to a positive case, should they stay home?

If the individual who was in direct contact with the positive case remains asymptomatic, the staff member or child can continue to attend daycare. If the individual with direct contact becomes symptomatic, the child should stay home until that person receives a negative test result. If the individual with direct contact becomes positive, the child should stay home in accordance with CDC recommendations for quarantine.

If a child is having symptoms similar to COVID-19, should we send them home?

The child may be removed from the daycare in accordance with your routine illness policies. If the child does not get tested, the child should not return to daycare until they have been fever free (without fever reducing medications) for at least 24 hours and have shown symptom improvement.

If a child or staff member has been tested and is awaiting a test result, can they remain at daycare?

There are several different answers to this question.

- If a child or staff member has NOT been named as a close contact to a positive case and is NOT having symptoms, but was tested for another reason, they may remain in the daycare. If they receive a positive test result, they should be sent home immediately.
- If a staff member has been named as a close contact and is NOT having symptoms, but was tested for another reason, they may remain in the daycare. They should follow guidelines set for essential workings including symptom monitoring and wearing a mask.
- Children who are named as a close contact should NOT attend daycare until they meet criteria to be released from quarantine.
- Children and staff members who are having symptoms similar to COVID-19 and are awaiting a test result should NOT attend daycare. If a negative test result is received, they should remain at home until they have been fever free (without fever reducing medications) for at least 24 hours and have shown symptom improvement.

What should I do if a child or staff at daycare has tested positive?

1. Ensure the positive individual has been removed from daycare and does not return until after they have completed their isolation period.
2. Identify anyone who would have been in close contact with the positive individual. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more per day with the positive case. This period starts the 2 days prior to the positive individual's symptom onset.
3. Close contacts should be instructed on quarantine. Children who were named as close contacts should be sent home for quarantine, unless they have a documented positive test result in the last 90 days. Staff members may be deemed essential and remain at daycare if they are not having symptoms and wear a mask. Follow your facility policy.
4. Send a report to the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH). This can be done by emailing: DOHCOVIDDaycare@state.sd.us. Your report should include details on the positive case as well as details on close contacts you identified. To report via the phone, call the COVID Helpline at 605-773-3048.
5. For state licensed or registered daycares, follow any requirements set up by Department of Social Services (DSS).
6. If you have questions, contact your DSS Licensing Representative or the COVID Helpline. If they are not able to answer your question, they will forward it to the SD DOH Daycare Team who will contact you for follow-up.

Will I receive a phone call from the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH)?

When a positive case is reported to the SD DOH, the individual (or parent/guardian) receives an email or text message containing a survey asking them to fill out information regarding the positive individual. This survey asks whether the child attends a daycare program and if yes, the last day that they were at the program. If the survey is not filled out within 3 days of report received by SD DOH, and the individual may receive a follow-up phone call from SD DOH staff. Children ages 0-18 are prioritized by the SD DOH. SD DOH staff will ask about daycare attendance. It is the responsibility of the positive individual (or parent/guardian) to report their attendance or employment at a daycare facility.

If the positive individual reports that they were at the daycare during their infectious period (48 hours prior to symptom onset/test date), SD DOH will follow-up with the daycare. Due to privacy laws, if the positive individual was not at daycare during their infectious period, the daycare will not be notified.

I am suspicious that a staff member or attendee has tested positive or has been in close contact with a positive case, yet continues to attend. What should I do?

Contact the individual (or parent/guardian) in question to speak to them about isolation and quarantine procedures recommended by SD DOH. Remind them about the guidelines and any additional policies or procedures the daycare may have regarding illnesses and infectious diseases. If you are unable to resolve this on your own, contact the DOH Call Center at 605-773-3048 to provide specific details regarding your concern and the individual. They will have a DOH staff member review the concern and provide appropriate follow-up with the individual (or parent/guardian).

I run an in-home daycare. One of the individuals who lives in my home was named as a close contact to a positive case, can I remain open?

The individual who was exposed to the positive case, should not be in close contact with any of the daycare attendees. If this individual is the daycare provider, they may be deemed essential and could continue to work if they are asymptomatic and wear a mask.

I run an in-home daycare. One of the individuals who lives in my home tested positive for COVID-19, can I remain open?

There are several scenarios for this question:

1. Is there space for the positive individual to safely isolate away from the daycare space (i.e. in a bedroom away from the daycare, using a separate bathroom, in the basement, etc)?
2. Does the positive individual have contact with the daycare attendees? If yes, the daycare attendees may be named as close contacts and may be subjected to a quarantine.
3. For household contacts to a positive case who also attend daycare (children), they should be placed on quarantine per CDC guidelines. Household contacts should not return to the daycare area until they have completed their quarantine period.
4. For household contacts to a positive case who are daycare staff, they may continue to provide services, if they are asymptomatic and wear a mask. This is in accordance to guidelines for essential workers.